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0000093923

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

February 20, 2009

ORIGINAL

To: Docket Control

RE: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. - Customer Comments
Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0608

Please docket the attached 11 customer comments OPPOSING the above filed rate case.

Customer comments can be reviewed in E-docket under the above docket number.

Filed by: Utilities Division – Consumer Services

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

FEB 20 2009

DOCKETED BY *MM*

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

2009 FEB 20 P 3:52

RECEIVED

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Richard L. Francis</i>	DATE <i>02/19/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13277 E. 53rd St., Yuma, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-9840</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Rate increases for Far West sewer customers</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0608</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>Dunehawk@aol.com</i>	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Far West Water and Sewer does not plan ahead, it doesn't need to. Whenever money is an issue they go to the citizens, like we are their bottomless purse. As a privately owned company they need to be more responsible. The public should not have to keep bailing them out; and their proposed rate increase is preposterous. They need to consider construction bonds or,

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Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission
Public Comment Form**

Continuation Page

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

perhaps, issuing stock. This company is presently developing a new housing subdivision, which will be profitable. However, this venture will put a strain on the existing sewage processing plants. They reap the profit, but come to the public for this rate hike to solve their problems. And, here they are vying for two rate hikes at the same time (Docket Numbers: WS-03478A-08-0608 and WS-03478A-08-0454). They are inept, and I feel it would be irresponsible to grant these rate increases.

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Richard L. Watson	DATE 2/19/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 11322 South Ave 12E, lot 102	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 345-1649
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0608 & A
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS rlandlm@localnet.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

1. -I previously sent you a letter based upon Docket # WS-03478A-08-0454 and I was satisfied with that until I discovered that the Docket number had changed or added to with Docket # WS-03478A-08-0608.

2. -I am elaborating upon the previous letter because the following information became available to me. It would appear that the following companies have a vested interested which is contrary to the interests of the their customers in that the rate increase that they are asking for is much more for their benefit than their customers. There is a definite interconnect between the related companies of Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Far West Water & Sewer have the following people as officers; Paula Schechert and Sandi Branden.

See page 2 for continuation of facts.

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Continuation Page

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

H & S Developers, Inc. became a separate entity from Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. on 12/30/1983 and has the following people as officers; Paula Schechert Capestro, Sandi Branden and Dorothy Schechert.

Las Barrancas Golf and Country Club, LLC. This is a very large development with lots laid out put, streets put in with water and sewer lines. There are also markers showing where the new clubhouse is to be built. They cannot proceed any farther with their development because of a Yuma County moratorium caused by a lack of adequate sewer capacity. The Las Barrancas development only shows member information that indicates it is owned by H & S Developers, Inc.

Capestro Construction, LLC has the following people as members; Paula Schechert Capestro and Andrew J. Capestro.

El Rancho El Encatado, LLC has the following people as members; Paula Schechert Capestro and Andrew J. Capestro. This is another large development locate at Foothills Blvd and 48th Street in the Yuma Foothills that is apparently just now being developed.

Branden Development, LLC has only one member listed (Sondra Braden), but the Branden name also appears as a member of H & S Developers, Inc.

Foothills Sand & Gravel, LLC is also owned by H & S Developers, Inc.

All of the above companies have the same business address: 12486 Foothills Blvd, Yuma, AZ 85364. They also have the same CPA; Lloyd H. Sunderman, 1409 South 5th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364.

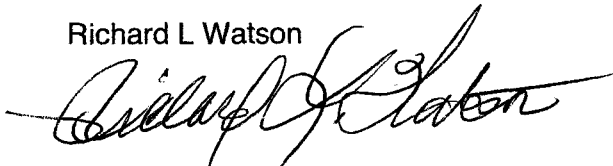
The Jacobson Companies, Inc, Jacobson Homes, LLC, and Jacobson Engineering, LLC of 1334 South 5th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364. The members are N. Bruce Jacobson, Michael J. Jarvis, and Carol Johnston. These companies are important because Bruce Jacobson is a trustee for the Schechert Trust and is listed as a member of Schechert Ranches, LLC.

Note that all of the above information is available at your website at www.ccz.gov.

I believe that this rate increase is more than self-serving on the part of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc and their related companies and I believe the the above interconnections support this contention. It is possible that they are asking for the Moon so as to get the real rate increase they desire. I'll give them the benefit of the doubt on that note.

Thank you for your attention to this subject.

Richard L Watson



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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Dale + Sarah Barrett</i>	DATE <i>2-18-2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13640 E. 49th Lane, Yuma, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-305-9552</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Sewer Rate Increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0608</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Please DENY this request.

We do not believe this increase is justified. A couple years ago they changed charging from actual months of use, to 12 mos a year, even tho a majority of customers only use the sewer 5 mos a yr. Now with this very large increase, it is just too much. They have much less sewer to process. Who would not like to have an increase of 101.02% !!

They have become greedy and are trying to take advantage of people who are also hurting.

Such an Extreme Request is Out of Line. Please Deny

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for

Mr. Paul Jobmann
13718 S. Dorothy Dr.
Yuma, AZ 85367

YOUR NAME PAUL JOBMANN	DATE 2/18/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13718 S DOROTHY DR	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 345-1328
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: EMERGENCY RATE INCREASE	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0608
CASE OR UTILITY NAME FAR WEST WATER & SEWER COMPANY	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS PJOBMANN1@YAHOO.COM	

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

THIS UTILITY CANNOT EVEN BE HONEST WITH THE "COMMISSION"-- THE 101.02 PERCENT FIGURE IS BOGUS. IF YOU FIGURE THE RATE INCREASES REQUESTED, THE TOTAL INCREASE IS 109.55 PERCENT. THEY ALSO STATE THAT MOST OF THE NEW "IMPROVEMENTS" ARE ALREADY ON LINE, SO WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY? THERE HAVE BEEN NO IMPROVEMENTS INSOFAR AS SERVICES RENDERED, BUT THE RATE INCREASES ARE ASKED FOR ONCE AGAIN. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH !

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Jack & Barbara Holstin	DATE 2/20/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13904 E. 53rd Street	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 342-0464
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Emergency Rate Increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0608
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Just as we stated before, we don't believe the emergency rate should be approved. Far West, which is owned and operated by H&S Development Corporation has had ample opportunity to fix their financial problems. They have so over developed this area. It is not the homeowners fault that they have to now build more sewage treatment plants. It is poor planning and management on their end that got to this point. We paid our initial start up costs when we all purchased our properties. They have so many unsold areas that they have developed it's no wonder that they are cash poor. I have been researching water and sewer rates in the state of Arizona, and our rates are right there with everyone else. I don't see how we should be penalized for their bad judgement. We currently pay \$21.75 for sewer, and other cities that I have been able to find with similar population is no more that \$25.00.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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**Jack E. And Barbara E. Holstin
 13904 E. 53rd Street
 Yuma, AZ 85367**

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Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Ray and Phyllis Beazizo	DATE 2/9/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 10209 S Spring Ave Yuma AZ 85365	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 345-3693
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Rate Application	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454 ⁰⁶⁰⁸
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS raynphyllis@netscape.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Please DO NOT approve any increase of our sewer rates, to the Far West Water & Sewer Company. With our spiraling down hill economy this rate increase they are asking for is absurd and should be denied.

We weren't even notified about the last increase they imposed. In the spring when we were leaving Yuma we had our power and water turned off on our property. When we returned in the Fall, we had our water turned on, and at that time Far West presented us with a bill for \$120 for the 6 months of sewer charges when we weren't even on the property. The next Fall when we returned they had upped the sewer rate to \$21.75 during the summer. All of these rate changes took place without us receiving prior notice.

We feel that any rate hike is very unfair especially when they want to collect it even though no one is occupying our property and the power and water are both shut off!!!!

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**Arizona Corporation Commission
Public Comment Form
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We live on a fixed income like many of the winter residents and our income is stretched to the max.

If it is the desire of Far West to have all winter visitors and winter residents to stop coming to Yuma and those who own property to sell and leave these new rate increases may accomplish that for them.

Far West sent me a letter today Feb 18 with a different docket no than the last letter I received. I dont know what Far west is up to but they need to be stopped & they need to accept responsibility to invest some of the profits in far West to pay off the \$20 million debt & bring the treatment plants up to the standard demanded by ADEQ without an increase in sewage rates.

Arizona Corporation Commission Consumer Inquiry and/or Complaint Form

Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Before submitting a complaint to the ACC please visit this [link](#) to determine if the Commission regulates this service. If the company is regulated, please contact the company first. If you have already contacted your utility and are not satisfied with its response, please fill out this form and return the address above.

Yuma, AZ. 85367

YOUR NAME Nick and Tena Milner <i>Nick Milner</i>	DATE 2/19/09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13600 E 55th Dr	PHONE (HOME) (541) 910-3344
NAME THAT APPEARS ON THE BILL Nick and Tena Milner	ALTERNATE PHONE (DAYTIME) (541) 910-3344
NAME OF THE UTILITY COMPANY Far West Water and Sewer Inc	ACCOUNT NUMBER <i>43705</i>
E-MAIL ADDRESS	CHECK HERE TO CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY CONTACTED THE UTILITY (SEE STEP 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR COMPLAINT OR INQUIRY:

Docket #WS-03478A-08-0608

Received an emergency rate increase notice in the mail yesterday. We could handle up to a 10% increase but not 101%. We've been customers for 10 years and they should have maintained what they had. The new developments and future growth should have paid for a new or expanded wastewater plant. This increase is also a direct result of poor management and planning.

This enormous increase is not justified.

Please include copies of any documentation, such as bills, that our office would need to provide a response.

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME JAMES A. HALLIDAY, KAZUKO HALLIDAY	DATE 02-19-2008
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 12712 E. 45 th DRIVE, YUMA, AZ	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 928-345-2812
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Sewer Increase	DOCKET NUMBER 0608 #WS-03478A-08-0154
CASE OR UTILITY NAME —	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS —	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

WIFE AND I ARE RETIRED AND LIVE ON FIXED INCOME. THIS SEWER INCREASE IS NOT NEEDED. WE HAVE TO PAY FOR SEWER WHEN WE TAKE A VACATION TO BE WITH OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN FOR 2 MONTHS, EVEN WHEN THE WATER IS SHUT OFF. FWWS SHOULD NOT START A NEW DEVELOPMENT HOUSING SECTION IF THEY COULD NOT PAY FOR IT. NOT WANT A RISE OF RATES BY PROPERTY OWNERS. FWWS SHOULD MAKE GOOD DRINKING WATER WITH HOME OWNERS HAVING TO INSTALL WATER SOFTENERS AND R.O.S SO WE CAN DRINK THE WATER. FWWS OWNERS SHOULD PUT THEMSELVES IN OUR PLACE AND LIVE ON FIXED INCOME AFTER WORKING HARD ALL THEIR LIVES. I PUT 20 YEARS IN THE MILITARY TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY (U.S.A). NOT TO GIVE IT TO MONEY HUNGRY FREE LOADERS, WHAT DO THEY WANT, FOR MONEY HOME OWNERS TO START LIVING ON THE STREET. THAT IS THE WAY IT'S HEADING, I 80 AND WIFE IS 81

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Phoenix, Arizona 85007;
or

Arizona Corporation Commission Consumer Inquiry and/or Complaint Form

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YOUR NAME Ron and Rey Wanamaker	DATE 2/19/09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13590 E 55th Dr	PHONE (HOME) (928) 342-2922
NAME THAT APPEARS ON THE BILL Ron Wanamaker	ALTERNATE PHONE (DAYTIME) (541) 680-0516
NAME OF THE UTILITY COMPANY Far West Water and Sewer Inc	ACCOUNT NUMBER 00019063-1
E-MAIL ADDRESS reywana@live.com	CHECK HERE TO CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY CONTACTED THE UTILITY (SEE STEP 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR COMPLAINT OR INQUIRY:

Docket #WS-03478A-08-0608

Received an emergency rate increase notice in the mail yesterday. We could handle up to a 10% increase but not 101%. We've been customers for 10 years and they should have maintained what they had. The new developments and future growth should have paid for a new or expanded wastewater plant. This increase is also a direct result of poor management and planning.

This enormous increase is not justified.

Please include copies of any documentation, such as bills, that our office would need to provide a response.

*Wanamaker
13590 E 55th Dr
Yuma AZ 85367*

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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>HAROLD E. & NORMA HILL</i>	DATE <i>2-19-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>9714 E. 33RD PLACE YUMA, AZ 85365</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>559-707-4149</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>EMERGENCY RATE INCREASE</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0608</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>FAR WEST WATER & SEWER CO.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>gehillno@earthlink.net</i>	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

This rate increase is outrageous. Our address is within the city limits and we request this rate increase far exceeds the present city rate. We should not have to pay for all the new housing units being built. Far West has not improved or added anything for the benefit of the property owner. We are winter visitors and are forced to pay for year round service even though we are not here.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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WS. 03478A. 08. 0608

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Trish Meeter

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 76750

Date: 2/19/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
 N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Last:
 Glen Gledhill

Account Name: Glen Gledhill

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85365

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

2/18 DOCKET NO. WS 03478A-08-0608

with the countires economy in this bad state and people are losing their jobs and their houses and this Company has enough nerve to ask for a 101.02% irate raise. You can't drink the water and it is so bad you have to change the taps in the house every other year. This company should be taking off 50% to what they are charging now not adding on a charge.?

I would be very disappointed in your office if this company gets their way.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

DOCKETED

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/19/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 76750